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JUNE '09

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The

FLASH

REBIRTH



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IT STARTED THE SECOND HE
RAN THROUGH THESE STREETS.

THERE WAS A FLASH OF A
LIGHTNING FROM BEYOND,
FOLLOWED BY A THOUSAND
THUNDEROUS FOOTSTEPS.

HIS STRIDES USHERED IN A NEW AGE
OF THOSE THAT WOULD SHATTER THE
SPEED OF SOUND, LIGHT AND TIME.

THOSE THAT WOULD RACE DOWN
THE SAME ROAD HE DID, ENFORCING
HIS ARCHAIC SENSE OF JUSTICE.



THIS MAN REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE LINE
BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL BLURRED LIKE
THE SCARLET AND GOLD HE WORE.



IT WAS A SIMPLE FACT
TO BARRY ALLEN.

HM.

WHATT

YOU WERE
GUILTY--



--OR YOU WERE
NOT GUILTY.

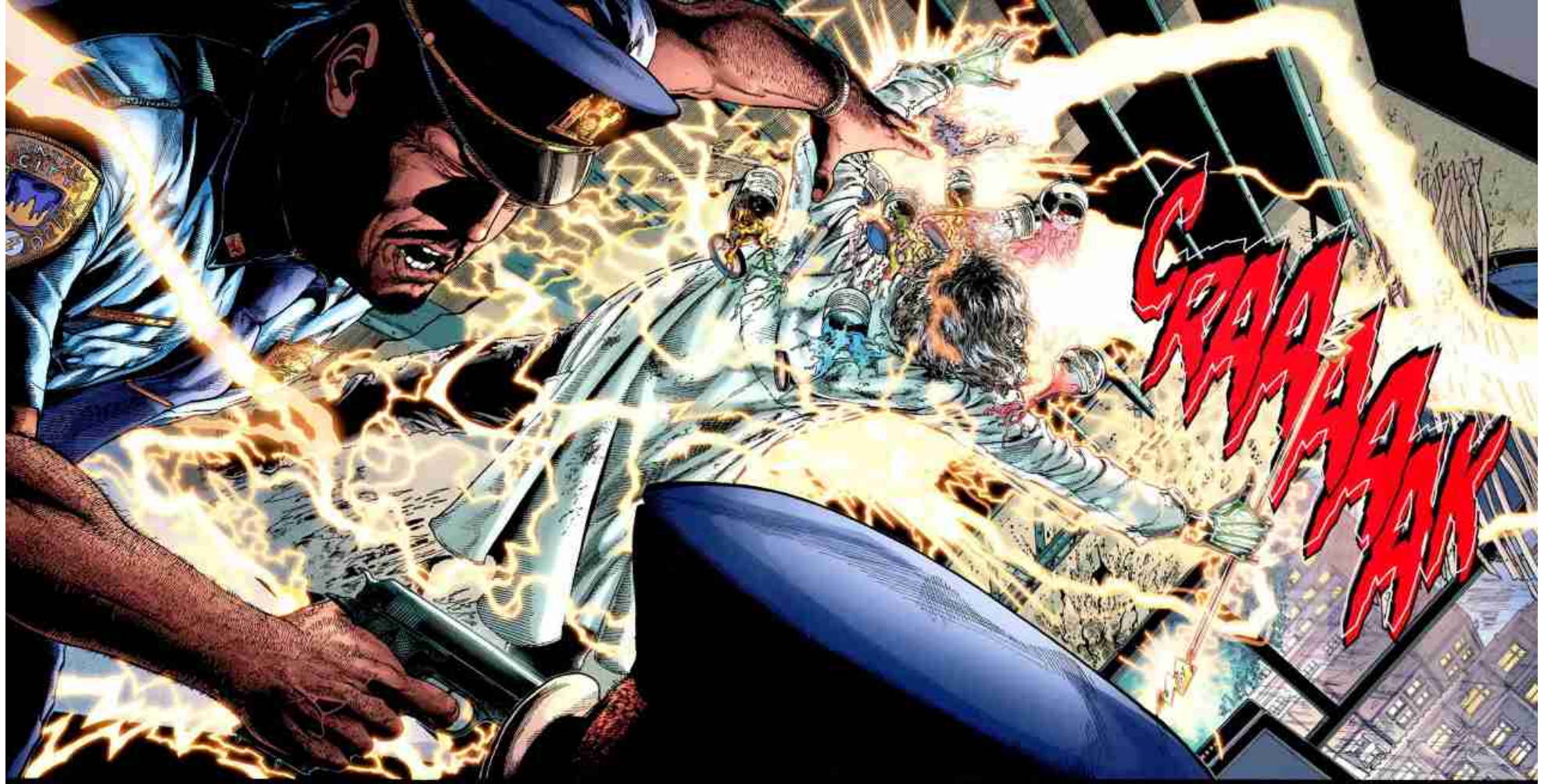
IT DOESN'T
MATCH.











...AND IT'S THE
WORST THING
I COULD DO
TO YOU.

EVERYONE
WANTS TO
MOVE FASTER
TODAY--

...BUT TRAFFIC
HAS BEEN AT A
STANDSTILL SINCE
SUNRISE.

PEOPLE FROM
KEYSTONE, AND ALL
ACROSS THE MIDWEST, ARE
TRYING TO MAKE THEIR WAY
TO CENTRAL CITY, AND IT'S
ABSOLUTE GRIDLOCK.

WHY RUSH
HOUR ON A
SATURDAY?

PREPARATIONS
FOR THE MOST
MONUMENTAL FLASH
CELEBRATION IN
YEARS ARE WELL
UNDER WAY.

THEY BEGAN LATE
LAST NIGHT AFTER IT
WAS VERIFIED BY THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE THAT,
YES, THOSE RUMORS
ARE TRUE...

I THINK
WE'RE GONNA
NEED MORE
ROGUES.

...CENTRAL
CITY'S FLASH
IS BACK!

ALONG WITH NEWS
OF KID FLASH'S RETURN,
THIS MIGHT VERY WELL BE THE
GREATEST DAY IN THE HISTORY
OF THE SCARLET SPEEDSTERS
THAT HAVE PROTECTED OUR
TWIN CITIES.

WE'LL BE
BACK LIVE IN JUST
ONE HOUR AS THE
CELEBRATION
BEGINS.

THIS IS
LINDA PARK-WEST
REPORTING WITH
KFMB, CHANNEL FOUR
NEWS.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL
DAY TO BE BACK--

--EVEN THOUGH
I SHOULDN'T BE

I USED TO BE DETECTIVE
BARRY ALLEN.

I USED TO BE THE
FASTEST MAN ALIVE.

I USED TO BE
THE FLASH.

SORRY ABOUT
THE LINE, DID YOU
WAIT LONG?

AN
ETERNITY.

TICKETS

LET'S
JUST YOU
OFF.

I WONDER
IF YOU
REMEMBER
ME--

--AND IF YOU'RE
STILL ANGRY
ABOUT WHAT I DID
TO HER.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO
THE MUSEUM
BEFORE?

YOU COULD
SAY THAT.

THEN
WELCOME
BACK.

WE'RE OPEN
UNTIL FIVE
TODAY.

THANKS,
BUT I WON'T
BE STAYING
THAT LONG.

LOOK AT THIS
CROWD. LOOK AT
THIS FANFARE.
YOU ASK ME--
EVERYONE'S
SURPRISING



BARRY ALLEN
MADE ME THE
FLASH.

NEW YORK
HEADQUARTERS OF
THE JUSTICE SOCIETY
OF AMERICA



BARRY ALLEN
MADE YOU THE FLASH?
THAT DOESN'T MAKE
ANY SENSE, JAY.

YOU WERE
THE FLASH, LIKE,
DECADES BEFORE
HIM, YOU WERE
THE FIRST!

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

JAY'S
TALKIN' ABOUT WHEN
HE AND JOAN AND
ALL A KEYSTONE CITY
VANISHED OFF
THE MAP.

IT WAS
THE THINKER AND
THE FIDDLER--

YOU DON'T EAT
UNTIL BARRY GETS
HERE, TED.



AND THE SHADE WAS A
PART OF IT, TOO. GOD
KNOWS WHY. THOSE THREE
ALTERED THE VIBRATIONAL
FREQUENCY OF KEYSTONE
CITY, ABDUCTING IT.
TIME FROZE.

BUT THAT
WASN'T WHAT
SLOWED ME
DOWN.



I'D PUT THIS
HELMET AWAY
YEARS BEFORE
THAT. I RETIRED
LIKE THE REST OF
THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY.

BUT WHEN
BARRY WOKE UP
KEYSTONE, HE
WOKE UP, TOO.

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"I THOUGHT I WAS WAY PAST
RUNNING. BUT THIS KID. HIS WONDER
AND JOY AND HIS UNBREAKABLE
SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG--

"--IT WAS ABSOLUTELY
INFECTIOUS.

"ALL THOSE YEARS. MOST
OF THE TIME, I COULDN'T
RUN FASTER THAN THE
SPEED OF SOUND.

"BUT WHEN THE DUST
SETTLED, AND KEYSTONE
AND CENTRAL WERE TWIN
CITIES AGAIN, HE LOOKED
AT ME AND GRINNED--"

WANNA RACE,
MR. GARRICK?

"I RAN
TWENTY TIMES
THE SPEED OF
SOUND THAT
DAY."

HAVEN'T
STOPPED
RUNNING
SINCE.

AND IF YOU
WEREN'T CALLING
IT QUITS, NEITHER
WAS I.

ME
EITHER.

BARRY
BROUGHT US
ALL BACK INTO
THE RING. EVEN
IF HE DIDN'T
KNOW IT.

HE REALLY CALLED YOU
"MR. GARRICK"?

BARRY NEVER
CALLED ME JAY.
NOT UNTIL WE
RAN ALONGSIDE
WALLY.

WALLY WAS
HIS PROTÉGÉ, BUT
WALLY INFLUENCED
BARRY AS MUCH AS
BARRY INFLUENCED
HIM--



BUT WHEN AUNT IRIS INTRODUCED ME TO BARRY, HE BLEW AWAY MY EXPECTATIONS LIKE HE BLEW AWAY THE SOUND BARRIER.

HE ALWAYS LOOKED YOU RIGHT IN THE EYES WHEN HE TALKED TO YOU. HE NEVER YELLED. HE NEVER SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED.

AND FOR SOMEONE AS FAST AS HE WAS, HE HAD A HELLUVA LOT OF PATIENCE.



WHAT
IS GOING
ON?

JAI WON'T
STOP MAKING
MONKEY FACES
AT ME!

WELL IREY
WON'T LET ME
HELP HANG THE
PINATA!
AND IT'S
A GORILLA
GRODD!

YOU TWO DO IT
TOGETHER, AND YOU
DO IT SILENTLY, OR
YOU'LL BE SITTING IN
YOUR ROOMS ALL DAY
TOMORROW.

GOT IT?

YES,
WIN

KIDS ARE TOUGH.
I COULDN'T IMAGINE
HAVING TWINS.

IMAGINE ONE WITH
SUPER-STRENGTH
AND ONE WITH
INTANGIBILITY.

IF THE SPEED
FORCE GAVE THEM
ACTUAL SPEED,
I COULD AT LEAST
RELATE TO THEM.
I KNOW WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO GROW UP
WITH THAT.

NEVER THOUGHT
I'D LOOK BACK AT
TRAINING BART AND
CALL IT EASY.





I'M NOT ASKING ANY QUESTIONS, JOAN.

CENTRAL CITY.

THE HOME OF IRIS WEST-ALLEN.

MURMUR'S SPREE ENDS

MR. ELEMENT

BARRY'S BACK

BART'S BACK

WHAT MORE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

IRIS?

BARRY'S BEEN GONE A LONG TIME. IRIS, THE WORLD THINKS HE'S DEAD. WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO?

BINGO

I'LL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS HE SITS DOWN FOR DINNER. HE'S BEEN ON THE MOVE. HE'S BEEN BUSY, WE HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO TALK.

HELLO?

IRIS? IT'S CAPTAIN FRYE FROM THE CENTRAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

THERE'S BEEN A MURDER.

I KNOW, BARRY'S BACK. I NEED HIS HELP.

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SOME THINGS
ARE STILL THE
SAME.

OTHER THINGS
ARE DIFFERENT.

NAME IS
DEXTER MYLES. AND IF
YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
JUST STOP ME AND I'LL
BE HAPPY TO ANSWER
THEM...

...TRANSFER THE
FUNDS QUICK,
BEFORE WE GET
HIT AGAIN...

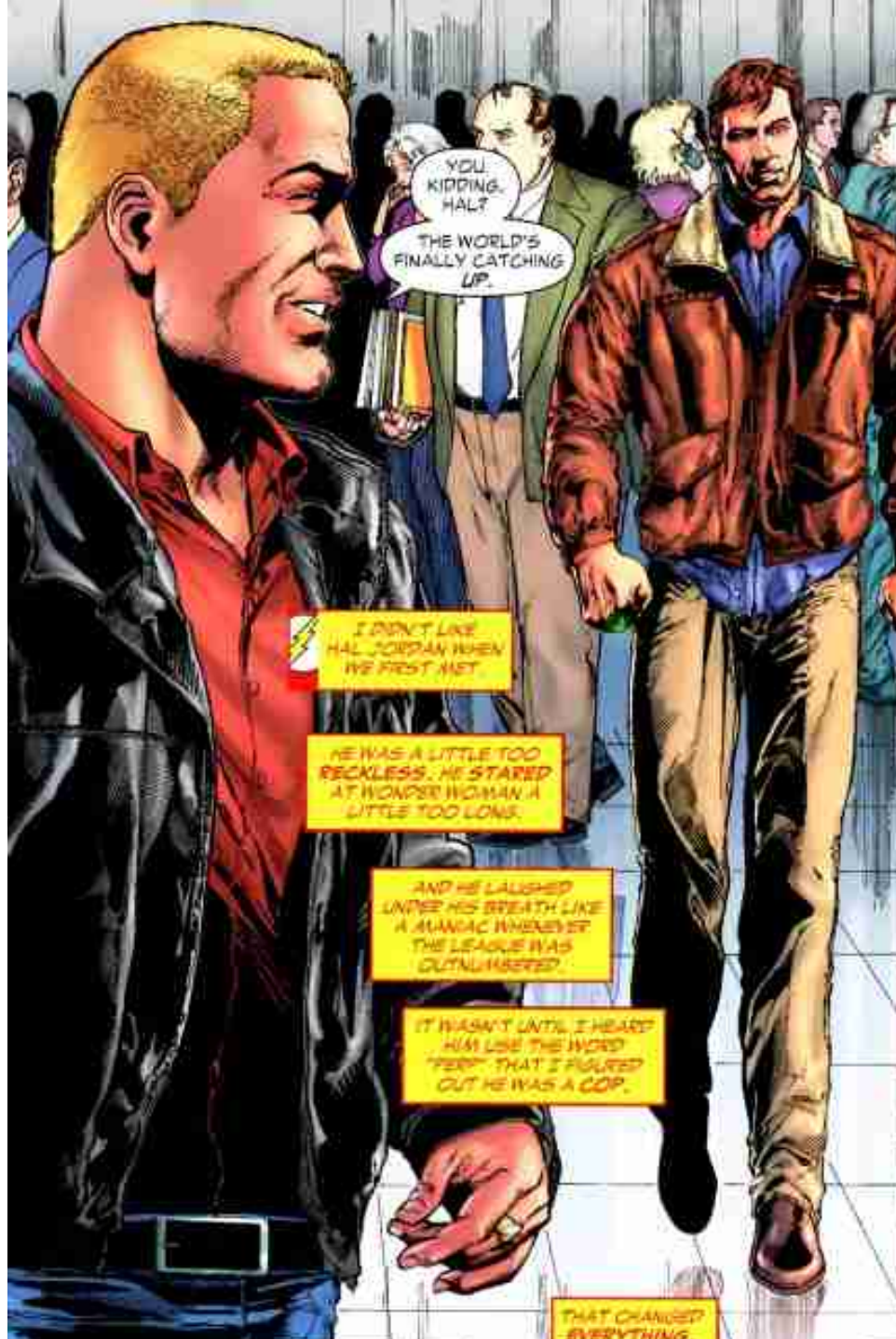
...HOLD ON, I NEED TO
MOVE, I'M GETTING
BAD RECEPTION...

...JUST
TEXT ME THE
ADDRESS...

...DOWNLOAD'S
WAY TOO
SLOW...

...I HAVE
ANOTHER
CALL...

THE WORLD
GET TOO FAST
FOR YOU?



YOU KIDDING, HAL?
THE WORLD'S FINALLY CATCHING UP.

I DON'T LIKE HAL JORDAN WHEN HE FIRST MET

HE WAS A LITTLE TOO RECKLESS. HE STARED AT WONDER WOMAN A LITTLE TOO LONG.

AND HE LAUGHED UNDER HIS BREATH LIKE A MANIC WHENEVER THE LEAGUE WAS OUTNUMBERED.

IT WASN'T UNTIL I HEARD HIM USE THE WORD "FERT" THAT I FIGURED OUT HE WAS A COP.

THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING.



EVERYONE'S DOING SIX THINGS AT ONCE.

YEAH, IT'S ANNOYING.

IT'S EXCITING.

YOU CALL TRYING TO HAVE DINNER WITH SOMEONE WHO'S TEXTING THEIR SISTER, FIELDING PHONE CALLS FROM WORK, AND LATE TO ANOTHER DINNER SHE DOUBLE-BOOKED EXCITING?



SHE DOUBLE-BOOKED? YOU LOSE YOUR TOUCH?

IT WAS JUST AN EXAMPLE.

MAYBE IT'S THE JACKET.

IT'S BETTER THAN A BOW TIE.

THE BOW TIES WEREN'T MY FAULT. AND BESIDES, I DON'T PLAY THE FIELD.



I HAVE IRIS.



TRUTH BE TOLD, IF THERE'S ANY SILVER LINING TO YOUR ABSENCE, IT'S THAT YOU WEREN'T AROUND TO SEE ME AS PARALLAX.

BAD ENOUGH OLLIE WAS.

HOW MANY MORE KIDS DID GREEN ARROW LEAD ASTRAY WHILE I WAS GONE ANYWAY?

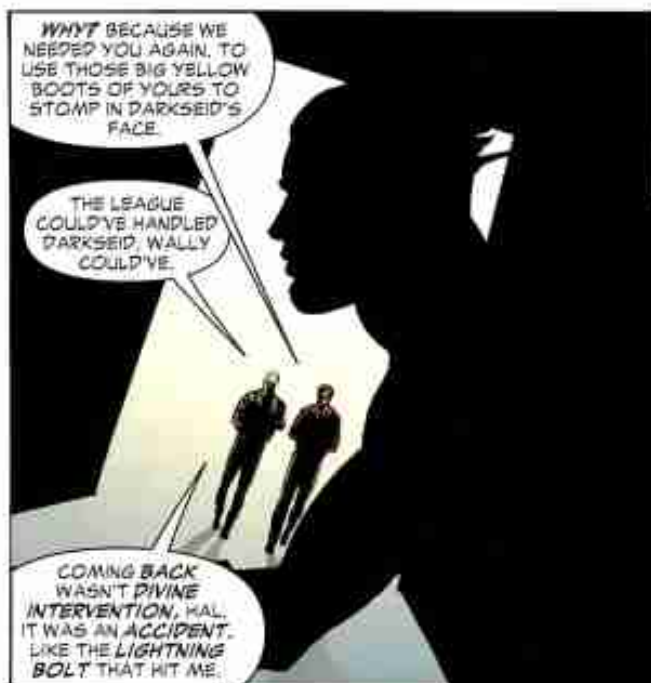
ONE, ACTUALLY. BUT I'M HOPING YOU AND OLLIE CAN START OVER.

I'M NOT BACK TO START OVER.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU BACK FOR?

THE COMIC.NET













I CAN
NEVER BE
LATE AGAIN.





OTHER SPEEDSTERS WERE
TAKEN BY THE SPEED
FORCE—JOHNNY QUICK,
MAX MERCURY, SAVITAR

—THEY DIDN'T
GET FREE.

BUT I DO—

—EVEN THOUGH
I HAVE NOTHING
HERE TO RESOLVE.

FACT IS: THERE WAS
ONLY ONE OPEN CASE
I LEFT BEHIND...

KOOM

KOOM

KAP



...AND IT
DIDN'T MATTER
TO ANYONE
BUT ME.

HFF!

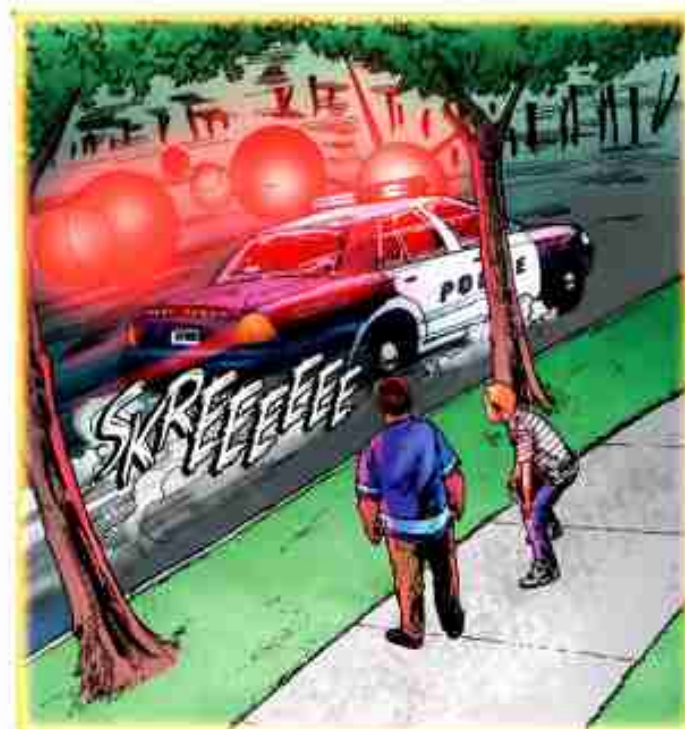


I GAVE YOU A BLOCK
HEAD START AND YOU'RE
STILL AS SLOW
AS A TURTLE!

I DON'T THINK
YOU'RE TRYING,
BARRY.

I AM.

I JUST DON'T LIKE
RACING.



SKREEEEEE



HEY.
THAT'S
YOUR HOUSE.





FREE!

I'M
F-F-FREE!

LOOKS LIKE
SAVITAR.

KRAK KOOOMMM

THE MUSEUM SAID HE WAS THE LEADER OF A
SPEED CULT, A PSYCHOPATH WHO SACRIFICED
INNOCENT LIVES TO RUN UNTIL WALLY PUSHED
HIM INTO THE SPEED FORCE.

KRAK KRAK

SAVITAR'S A
MURDERER.

HE'S GUILTY.



WHAT THE HELL
DO I JUST GOT

BAC

LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE

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NEXT:
**THE FLASH:
REBIRTH #2**



Some people think I play favorites.

You know, give that extra push to the characters I love most. And while I have stuck with certain books longer than sales would suggest, truth be told, I love all our characters equally... it's just that some characters need a little more tender loving care than others.

There is no denying that we created some real interest in our new versions of BLUE BEETLE and MANHUNTER, and I am extremely pleased to say both developed their own intensely loyal fan base. I know that because when each of their series was cancelled, the letters and e-mails protesting those decisions came quickly. Now, while we don't have any plans to restart their series, we do have some special plans for those characters and a few others deserving some tender loving care.

Starting this June we will be introducing a series of second features in several of our ongoing books, giving an opportunity for characters like Blue Beetle and Manhunter to shine. These features will be solo adventures by some of our finest talents, picking up and taking off from their earlier storylines.

The monthly excitement begins in these titles, and the co-featured characters are:

DETECTIVE COMICS #854 — THE QUESTION
BATMAN: STREETS OF GOTHAM #1 — MANHUNTER
TEEN TITANS #72 — RAVAGER
BOOSTER GOLD #21 — BLUE BEETLE
ACTION COMICS #879 — CAPTAIN ATOM
GREEN ARROW #22 — BLACK CANARY
DOOM PATROL #1 — METAL MEN

Pretty cool, eh?

Really hope you like this, because if you do, there will be more on the way. Oh, and by the way, let's try not to call these stories backups. All these characters are stars in their own right, and these second features give them a chance to shine.

To be continued...
DD

DC NATION

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